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JANUARY 14, 2010



## Task Force Marne trains Iraqi federal police force

Pfc. Gregory Gieske, 2nd HBCT Public Affairs

**Sergeant First Class Faustino Saizar, 3rd Federal Police Division Transition Team, instructs Iraqi Federal Policeman the proper technique for rotating and firing during a training session led by 3rd Federal Police Division Transition Team Soldiers on Forward Operating Base Marez, Dec. 18. See story Page 10A**

### Equipment Turn-In

## TF Marne starts draw down with Operation Clean Sweep

**Spc. Michael Adams**  
Task Force Marne Public Affairs

**CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq** – Throughout Iraq, Soldiers are rolling up their sleeves and identifying old, unneeded equipment to make withdrawal in Iraq a little simpler and less painful. As part of Operation Clean Sweep, Soldiers from 3rd Signal Company, Division Special Troops Battalion, Task Force Marne, cleared a bunker full of excess or inoperable equipment.

The 3rd Signal Company inherited equipment that the commander realized was unusable, said Master Sgt. Robert Rowsam, the 3rd Signal operations noncommissioned officer in charge, who led the clean-up.

“We wanted to start the reduction of equipment as soon as possible, instead of waiting until the very end. That way, we don’t have to do things at the last minute,” said the Watertown, N.Y. native.

The Signal Company contacted one of the three Mobile Redistribution Teams in Iraq, who travel from base to base inspecting unneeded equipment to see if it can be used in Afghanistan or the United States

“We’re preparing for the big withdrawal,” said Sgt.

Candace Powell, an MRT leader with 264th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. “It’s the first sweep, the first step in getting everything out.”

Under Operation Clean Sweep, units are to identify and segregate non-mission essential equipment. This will expedite the turn-in process and enable units to meet the responsible drawdown timeline.

Sergeant Powell led her team in sorting through the bunker, which was filled with communications equipment, to determine what is still operable and what is not.

Her team, along with 3rd Signal Co., packed an estimated 60 pallets and an estimated 10 tons of equipment.

If the items inventoried are in good condition, they will go to Afghanistan to support the troop surge in that theater of operations. Equipment that is not serviceable will be returned to the United States where a range of possibilities exist. It can be repaired and sent to Afghanistan or turned into scrap metal.

Master Sergeant Rowsam thanked his troops for their hard work repacking.

“It’s definitely a good feeling knowing we’re a part of the closing mission over here. It’s very important to make sure the equipment gets turned in and the base gets turned back over to the Iraqis.”

## Army says: 'Don't be that guy'

**Randy Murray**  
Fort Stewart Public Affairs

Everyone has seen him, the intoxicated guy making a fool of himself in public. Quite often, that drunken guy is a Soldier. In fact, according to a Department of Defense Health Related Behavior survey done in 2006, binge drinking among 18 to 25-year-old Soldiers was 56 percent in 2005, an increase from 53.8 percent in 2002. According to Jennifer Quermann, senior vice-president with Fleishman-Hillard International Communications, DoD has a message to this age group of military personnel, from private to specialist: You don’t want to be “That Guy.”

Quermann said her company was contracted by DoD in 2005 to audit and analyze existing alcohol

abuse prevention programs and campaigns in the military. She said the objective of Fleishman-Hillard’s “That Guy” program, which was launched in 2006, includes changing attitudes of the above, target-group military personnel by increasing peer disapproval of out-of-control behavior and raising awareness of the social effects of excessive drinking.

She said the DoD ultimately hopes to change behavior and reduce binge drinking among active duty junior military personnel and motivate installations and the communities to adopt the “That Guy” campaign.

“One thing our preliminary research found was that alcohol facts and health messages, like addiction, liver damage, even long-term legal consequences, are not meaningful to this target audience,” Quermann explained.

See THAT GUY \_\_\_\_\_ Page 4A

## Stewart-Hunter keeps the Army Family Covenant

**Bob Mathews**  
FMWR Marketing

Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield are committed to upholding the Army Family covenant, which was signed Nov. 7, 2007. The covenant represents a \$1.4 billion commitment to improve the quality of life for Army Families.

As another example of Stewart’s on-going efforts to support the covenant, Brigadier General Jeffrey Phillips, 3rd Infantry Division Deputy Commanding General-Rear, stood at the speaker’s podium in front of Hunter Lanes at the ribbon cutting that celebrated the completion of the \$1.34 million renovation project there.

“This is a great facility,” Brig. Gen. Phillips said during the ceremony, Dec. 17. “It’s hard to believe that it was built in the 1960s. It really is a testament from the Army to the Families regarding the enduring nature of our commitment to the Army Family Covenant in taking care of Families.

“So, while it is a bowling alley, an arcade, it’s really part of our expression of support for Families.”

Brigadier General Phillips and others in the Stewart-Hunter command have presided over a number of ribbon-cuttings in recent months at Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities.

See COVENANT \_\_\_\_\_ Page 2A



Pfc. Crystal M. O’Neal

**Specialist Courtney Brown, Troop D, 3/73 Cav., 1st BCT, 82nd Airborne Div., drives one of the tractors Task Force Marne Soldiers delivered to local farmers in Sununi, Iraq, Dec. 22.**

## TF Marne Soldiers present equipment to Iraqi farmers

**Pfc. Crystal M. O’Neal**  
2nd HBCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE MAREZ, Iraq – Without rain, seeds and tractors, growing and cultivating crops would be almost impossible. Farmers in Sununi, Iraq, have been lacking these essentials – until now.

Task Force Marne Soldiers delivered new farm equipment to Ninewa province to make maintaining and producing plentiful crops easier, Dec. 22.

The Soldiers gave the farmers two large tractors as well as two mid-size combines.

Farming is an essential contributor to Sununi’s economic success but has been rather hard for the workers due to a lack of farming supplies.

So in September, the Provincial Reconstruction Team in the area began planning to provide the farmers with as much support as possible.

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Bensburg, PRT, said his team was notified about the lack of functioning farm equipment in Sununi, as well as the rest of the Ninewa province, and they decided to lend the farmers a hand.

See FARMERS \_\_\_\_\_ Page 9A



# Shoppette

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# GC: Recycle for a more beautiful tomorrow

**Commentary by Col. Kevin W. Milton**  
*U.S. Army Garrison Commander*

Happy New Year! Did you make any resolutions for 2010? For the Garrison, we resolve to remain dedicated to you and to continue to provide excellent service to our community, our country and to our Soldiers who are serving here and in harm's way, fighting for our freedom. Ultimately, they are fighting to make the world a better place for every Family. Each of us should resolve to do the same. In the New Year's tradition, we each make a difference by committing ourselves to continual improvement. I would like to ask you to adopt some resolutions that would improve our Garrison.

"Continual Improvement" is a cornerstone of our Sustainability Management System policy. My challenge to members of the Garrison is to remember "R-O-C-K," which is our Environmental Sustainability Management System policy. There is a saying to "think globally, act locally."

We can make a difference individually, but as a garrison, we can contribute mightily! As a garrison effort, Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield won the Army Communities of Excellence Award for three consecutive years, 2004, 2005 and 2006, and also for

2009. These honors were bestowed upon the installation for the superb performance of individual Soldiers and civilians who everyday resolved to make wise "local" choices to responsibly use Garrison and "global" resources. We can, and will, win that award again!

Did you know that last year at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield, we recycled 2,990 tons of paper? These numbers include recyclables donated to the installation from the local communities of Hinesville, Pembroke and Savannah. We and our partner communities win from the reduction in total solid waste generated when the cost for paying landfill disposal fees is reduced. The reduction in a city's operations cost is relayed to the citizens of the community through reduced taxes. The companies receiving the bulk of recycled paper through the installation are local businesses that provide local jobs. The EPA Fact Sheet states that recycling one ton of paper saves 17 mature trees, 7,000 gallons of water, three cubic yards of landfill space, two barrels of oil, and



4,100 kilowatt-hours of electricity. The paper recycled on the installation equates to 50,830 mature trees, 2.1 million gallons of water, 8,970 cubic yards of landfill space, and 5,980 barrels of oil.

Here is where I need your help. We could double what we recycle from our housing areas simply by keeping our recyclables

clean. Empty and rinse out your recyclable containers. When food and garbage is mixed in the recyclables they become contaminated. These few simple "lifestyle" changes can help Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield increase its solid waste diversion rate from 40 percent to the President's mandated 50 percent by 2015 and help the country's overall energy reduction efforts. But why stop there? Who knows what we could achieve if we all chip in?

As we all know, energy equates to money. Did your New Year's resolution include making more money? Perhaps you didn't know this, but I award two units \$1,000 each as a cash award for achieving environmental excellence

quarterly at our Environmental Quality Control Committee meeting. I challenge you to resolve this year to win one of these cash awards. Each quarter, two units (one from Fort Stewart and one from Hunter) are each awarded \$1,000 for their environmental compliance and recycling programs. According to Army Regulation 672-20, the winning units have the option of donating their winnings to their respective Family Readiness Group or utilizing the funds to support Unit Morale and Welfare activities. By improving our recycling efforts at the unit and activity level, we also create opportunities for national recognition.

With your support, Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield has consistently provided a quality environment for us to train, work and live. We must ensure that it continues to do so in the future. Soldiers are taught to leave a place better than they found it. I challenge everyone living or working at Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield, to resolve to make wise "local" choices to responsibly use Garrison and "global" resources and leave this Installation a better place for future generations of Soldiers and their Families! Good luck with your personal resolutions, and have a Happy New Year!

## Recycling is for everyone

**Randy Powell-Jones**  
*Directorate of Public Works*

Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Soldiers and Families take great pride in their Installation and are not only committed to performing the mission and ensuring the well-being of our Soldiers and Families – they also understand that being good stewards of the environment today will sustain our installation for years to come.

With a current Waste Diversion Rate of 42 percent, Fort Stewart exceeds the previous Department of Defense mandate of 40 percent by the end of 2010. This puts the installation well on its way to meeting the new mandate of 50 percent Waste Diversion by 2015. But like all things in the 21st century, things are more complicated than they appear and everyone-- our Soldiers, Families, civilians and contractors can make a difference.

The worldwide financial crisis generated what has been called "The Great Recycling Market Crash of 2008" -- many commodity prices dropped by 80 percent. Demand for materials from China has long driven the recycling industry here in the U.S., but as the global economy slowed down, the demand for manufactured goods dropped, and China stopped buying such enormous volumes of recycled material. So, even though the installation successfully increased our waste diversion rate, we are having a harder time recouping our processing costs. One way to combat this in a market-driven economy is to "Close the Circle." That is, purchase products made from recycled materials. By doing so, the demand for recyclables will go up.

Another way to combat the decrease in revenues that will have an immediate effect is to continue to improve our recycling rate as required to meet the new Executive Order. We're doing a good

job, but we can certainly do better. A great place to start is in the recycling that we are already doing. Did you know that nearly 25 percent of the recyclables we receive must be discarded due to contamination?

What happens when you pour your used oil in the same container as your cardboard? You get a mess! You can't collect the oil, and the cardboard has been contaminated. Get the idea? Same principle – what happens when you put that partially empty coke can with your other recyclables? Again, you get a mess and the entire effort of sorting the recyclables from the trash has been wasted. How about trace residual food in the bottom of cans or milk jugs? Food attracts bees and ants and makes the hand-sorting process of the recyclables more complicated, which can potentially ruin the load. Essentially, contaminants can cause an entire batch of recyclables to be ruined. Dirt, printing inks, soiled paper, Styrofoam and any non-recyclable materials may also contribute to contamination. If we take a few extra steps before putting those recyclables in the blue bin, we can increase our diversion rate while improving overall efficiency of the processing operation.

Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield has made it easy to recycle by offering a commingled recycling system so that items do not require separation. But everyone can make it easier through everyday tasks, such as rinsing out cans, bagging paper separately and being aware of what is placed in recycling containers and bins in order to reduce contamination.

The Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield community has proven themselves to be good stewards of our environment and successful recyclers. We've reached the goal of 40 percent diversion; now it's time to set our sights on the next one – 50 percent. Too easy! Rock of the Marne!



### 3/7 Inf CSM Gilpin relinquishes responsibility

Staff Sgt. Tanya Polk, 4th IBCT Public Affairs

**Command Sergeant Major Christopher Gilpin passes the NCO Sword to 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team commander, Lt. Col. Richard Cleveland, relinquishing responsibility from the "Cottonbaler Battalion," Dec. 18. The 3/7 Inf. acting command sergeant major is Sgt. Maj. Sebastian Morman, former Cottonbaler operations sergeant major.**

## COVENANT

from Page 1A

"I think this is my fourth or fifth ribbon cutting in the last couple of weeks," Brig. Gen. Phillips told the Hunter Lanes audience. He included grand opening ceremonies at the Lotts Island RV Campground and Hallstrom Lake.

He described the projects as "concrete symbols" of the Army's commitment to its Families.

"And the Army didn't used to be this way," Brig. Gen. Phillips said. "The Army's gotten a lot better in the last 10 years or so, really actualizing what we have always felt in our hearts – that our strength flows from our Families."

Garrison commander Col. Kevin Milton pointed out the Army's commitment to the Army Family Covenant in remarks delivered at a ribbon cutting ceremony at Stewart Lanes, Nov. 12.

"It is with great pleasure that we are able to re-open Stewart Lanes after an 11-month, \$1.5 million renovation," Col. Milton said. "This is another way the Army is delivering on the Army Family Covenant, signed by the Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff of the Army and many other leaders in the Army."

He cited the Stewart Lanes project as an example of the Army's pledge to deliver "improved and expanded recreation programs and services."

Stewart Lanes, originally built in 1962, was the first bowling center and snack bar constructed on Fort Stewart. It has a new exterior façade and entrance, an expanded, modernized kitchen with a walk-up service window, additional party room space and 12 bowling lanes with a "Cosmic Glo-



Bob Mathews, DFMWR Marketing

**Command Sergeant Major Gilbert Adkins, Hunter Army Airfield command sergeant major; Spc. Michael Geoffroy, 416th Trans. Co.; Idalene Elbert, Business Manager of Hunter Lanes; Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Phillips, 3rd ID Deputy Commanding General-Rear; Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Ashmen, command sergeant major-rear; and Hunter Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Jose Aguilar; Cut the ribbon to celebrate the re-opening of Hunter Lanes upon completion of a \$1.34 million renovation project, Dec. 17.**

Bowling" theme. The interior has a retro look, with color scheme and theme representing the 50s, 60s and 70s.

The renovated Hunter Lanes now has what Brig. Gen. Phillips described as a "cheerful and welcoming" color scheme, along with AMF state-of-the-art gaming equipment, flat-screen monitors and automatic scoring, a modernized kitchen and a concourse that was improved to make it more accommodating for baby strollers and

for those who have physical challenges. Hunter Lanes' centerpiece is a new party room to serve not only Families, but units that want to hold hails and farewells and other events.

Other projects at Stewart and Hunter give evidence of commitment to the Army Family Covenant.

Extensive improvements on the North Shore side of Holbrook Pond Recreation Area, another FMWR renovation project in keeping with the Covenant, are complete but for minor,

last-minute details.

The \$750,000 Holbrook project includes:

- The addition of three small and one large picnic pavilions which are screened, lighted and equipped with ceiling fans.
- The creation of two new play areas to give children a place to safely climb, slide and play.
- The addition of a sand volleyball court and basketball court.
- The addition of a fishing pier and boat dock where rental paddle boats, kayaks and canoes are available.
- The addition of restroom facilities.
- Added paved parking.

Other December ribbon cutting ceremonies celebrated include the addition of three small and one large pavilion, two playground sets, a restroom and a new floating dock at the Hallstrom Lake Recreation Area off Perimeter Road at Hunter. The cost of the work, which also added paved parking, was \$750,000.

A project that added 16 camping spaces with all utilities, patio slabs with picnic tables and a walking path was completed at the Lotts Island RV Campground off Lotts Island Road. This project also cost \$750,000.

"The Army Family Covenant is a promise kept," said Linda Heifferon, director of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation at Stewart and Hunter. "The Army's senior leadership has supported the Army Family Covenant and the projects and programs at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield are a result of that support."



# Iraqi Army welcomes 500 new Soldiers during recruitment drive

**Spc. Dustin Gautney**  
*2nd HBCT Public Affairs*

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE MAREZ, Iraq** – The early morning light unveiled the sides of the highway filled with nearly 1,000 Iraqi local nationals jogging along the road’s shoulder. The local nationals did not run in fear; they ran for a hope and a dream to become part of the Iraqi Army’s few available positions during an Iraqi Army recruitment drive, Dec. 23. With nearly one thousand in attendance hoping to be part of the Iraqi Army, only 150 would be chosen that day. During the course of the four-day recruiting drive, approximately 500 were chosen out of the thousands who applied.

For the Soldiers of the 1st “Desert Rogues” Battalion, 64th Armor, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, assisting the 2nd Iraqi Army Brigade in recruiting new members could not have been executed any smoother, said Capt. Wes Wilhite, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1/64 Armor. “From start to finish, the plan for the recruitment drive was an Iraqi plan, coordinated by their commanders and executed by their officers and noncommissioned officers,” said Capt. Wilhite. As part of the plan to assist the Iraqi Army recruitment drive, members from 1/64 Armor supplied additional security at numerous security points, as well as applying the U.S. military’s Handheld Interagency Detection Equipment. This

device allows users to photograph, fingerprint, perform retinal scans, and verify credentials against previously gathered information. “The HIDE is basically the final check for the locals during the recruitment process,” said Spc. Gary Daniels, 204th Military Police Company, attached to 2nd HBCT. “After going through the security checkpoints and being medically screened, we have everyone go through the HIDE checkpoint.” Captain Wilhite also said the event was executed to the highest degree of excellence by the Iraqi Army; U.S. military assistance was limited because of the outstanding planning from the Iraqi Army. “I feel that even if we were not part of the plan to assist in the recruitment drive, that the event would still have been a success, which is a testament to the fine leadership of the Iraqi Army,” Capt. Wilhite said. Lieutenant Colonel Ross Coffman, commander, 1/64 Armor, agreed the Iraqi Army’s planning and execution of the event demonstrated how an Iraqi plan, conducted by Iraqi leaders and Soldiers, leads to the best results for the Iraqi populace. “The Iraqi Army plan was so well designed that had we not been there at all, the recruitment drive would have still been a huge success,” said Lt. Col. Coffman. “The Iraqi Army is so well-led and trained to be able to execute a recruitment plan so large and over multiple locations, that I can say I would be proud to stand side-by-side with our Iraqi brothers in any war.”



Photos by Spc. Dustin Gautney  
*An Iraqi Soldier searches a prospective Iraqi Army recruit during a recruitment drive, Dec. 23.*



*ABOVE: Private Joshua Taylor, HHC, 1/64th Armor, provides security while Iraqi Army Soldiers search prospective Iraqi Army recruits during a recruitment drive, Dec. 23.*

*LEFT: Nearly a thousand potential Iraqi Army recruits lined the highway to take advantage of the opportunity to join the Iraqi Security Forces during a recruitment drive run by the Iraqi Army and 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment in northern Iraq.*



*Specialist Eddie Flores, 204th Military Police Company, attached to 2nd HBCT, takes a photograph of a prospective Iraqi Army recruit during a four-day recruitment drive, Dec. 23.*



# Bravery is saying goodbye

**Commentary by Sgt. Ben Hutto**  
*3rd HBCT Public Affairs*

As an American Soldier, I've witnessed bravery in a variety of forms. Whether it was observing my battle buddy overcome his fear of heights and repel down a 20-foot tower during basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C.; seeing an 18-year old private kick in a door during a night raid; or watching one of my best friends overcome the amputation of both his legs and become an amazing noncommissioned officer. I've seen countless instances of men and women setting aside their fears and performing their duties at a high level.

To be honest, I've sort of come to expect it. I believe this determination is instilled in most Soldiers during basic training and is further developed as we serve around people who have learned to push through their anxieties in order to fulfill the oath they took to defend our country.

As I returned home from my 15-day Rest and Relaxation Leave, I saw it again in the most unlikely of places.

My six-year-old son isn't a Warrior. He didn't volunteer to be the child of a Soldier. In all honesty, his opinions have very little

effect on me when I start talking about deployments and how long I'm going to be away.

He is put in the unfortunate situation of being stuck with my decision to serve our country.

I'm sure he is proud of me most days, but there are sacrifices that he must endure in my absence.

Dad isn't there for every holiday or birthday. I can't tuck him in bed every night. When he goes to Cub Scouts, he is one of the few boys whose father isn't there. The list of every-day things that I'm absent for could go on for pages, and it takes a toll on his young psyche.

He has nightmares some nights. Most nights, he sleeps in my bed with his mother for reassurance. Many days, he asks her if I'm going to come back home. He has been pulled out of school to deal with separation anxiety; further making him "different" from the children around him and hindering his ability to be a good student.

It isn't fair. I'll admit that. Despite my best efforts to provide for him and his younger brother, they are both forced to live in a single-parent home every deployment.

Both of them live with the specter of

Daddy not coming home or returning home with an injury they can't understand. My oldest has seen one of Daddy's injured friends, the one with the "robot" legs, and noticed that Daddy walks with a limp now.

A six-year-old might not understand all of the details, but he has a unique perspective of what war is, and he also understands what that could mean for me.

Unfortunately, I ask him to accept this and not worry. I ask him to go about his life "like normal" and await my return.

To be honest, I try not to think about what a huge task that is. For many of us, "talking to the kids about deployment" is one bullet on a long list of important things we have to get done before we get on the plane to go overseas.

I wish I could say that I've eased my child's mind, and he is performing normally. I wish I could say he doesn't cry when he talks about Daddy being gone. I wish he wouldn't worry that Mommy is going to leave him now, as well; but that isn't the case.

There are a lot of days that he struggles with it, and I hope one day I can help him understand how proud I am of HIM for the sacrifice HE is making for this country.

I want to pull him close and thank him for being as brave as any Soldier I've ever served with. Armed only with a child's hope that "everything will be ok," he has done a wonderful job of getting through this deployment.

Unlike me, my kids will never get an award for their service. Generals typically don't give HOOAH coins to children. The only award they will receive is the countless toys and kisses they'll get from me when I get off the plane next October. For them, it is enough.

As I got out of my car at the airport, I walked around to the backseat to give him a kiss good-bye.

I opened the door to see him, his eyes shrink-wrapped in tears, trying to give me a gapped tooth smile despite a quivering lip.

I smiled my best reassuring smile, gave him a big hug and kiss, and told him "It's going to be all right, bud. I'll be home soon. I promise."

Without shedding a tear, he just gave me another quivering kiss on the lips and whispered, "I know, Daddy. I love you. Please come back quick."

That folks is as brave a thing as you'll ever see. Take it from someone who sees it every day.

## THAT GUY

from Page 1A

She said findings show this target group feels stress, frustration and boredom with their jobs and just being on the installation, which might lend itself to heavy drinking. However, she noted that this group is very concerned about possible embarrassment among their peers. A peer-to-peer message delivery is far more effective than top down, chain of command communications, Quermann emphasized.

Quermann said today's junior military personnel are attracted to humor, and that they are "Web-savvy," making them more likely to use the Internet for information sources on health and other information. Most of all, she said today's junior military personnel are very concerned about personal control over their lives, and since excessive drinking inevitably leads to loss of control, the That Guy campaign focuses on this point, using humor to get the message across.

Her organization launched its Web site, *www.ThatGuy.com*, in December 2006 and began test marketing its campaign at Pensacola Naval Air Station, Fla.; Fort Bragg, N.C.; Pope Air Force Base, N.C.; and Camp Lejeune, N.C. They created branded promotional material and bought installation and community advertising, running 30 second public service announcements at installation movie theaters and Internet promotions through MySpace and Facebook.

A follow-up DoD Health Related Behavior survey done in 2008 revealed binge drinking among target audience military personnel at the target Army installation (Fort Bragg) had decreased to 36 percent. Similar results were found among the Navy and Air Force test installations. She said the Marine Corps sample size was too small to be included.

Quermann said awareness of the binge drinking problem among junior military personnel increased from 58 percent in 2007 to 80 percent in 2008. She credits the That Guy Web site for much of that awareness, having now gotten 3.4 million page views. The campaign is now running in 42 states and 11 countries with posters and billboard ads appearing on most installations. From January to September this year, her company is co-sponsoring a That Guy Comedy Tour with AT&T and the Directorate of Family, Morale and Recreation. The tour will visit 98 installations in all branches of service. The comedy tour is scheduled to come to come to Fort Stewart in May.



# Meet with Ginger Cucolo

Spouse of 3rd ID commander, Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo

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## Meet new spouses that may have the same issues and concerns you do.

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**\*The first meeting is designed for  
company level FRG Leaders\***

**Jan. 27  
9:30 a.m. to 1130 a.m.  
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After meeting and chatting with others, breakout sessions will be set up in six different categories to include:

- VOLUNTEER** - trouble getting or keeping volunteers
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- DIFFICULT** - personalities, situation issues
- PERSONAL** - balance time with your Family and Army
- FRG MANAGEMENT** - finances and fund raising
- BUCKET** - anything else not being addressed

For more information and to RSVP for this event call  
Army Community Service at 767-5058/5059

## Marne Voices Speak Out

## What is your New Year's resolution ?

"Shop less and save more."

**Ethel Jeffcoat**  
*ACS Information & Referral*



"I don't make New Year's resolutions. I make them year-round."

**Faye Couture**  
*Director, George P. Hays Library*



"Go to church more often."

**Sgt. 1st Class Kollie Dennis**  
*3rd SB*



"Just try to survive and do better than last year."

**Frederick Sledge**  
*AER Officer*



"Get control of my debts."

**Spc. Lakeisha Troupe**  
*703rd BSB*



"I've decided to just take it one day at a time because I never keep New Year's resolutions."

**Courtney Salter**  
*Army Spouse*



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# With improved security, Iraqis celebrate AF Day

**Spc. Cassandra Moore**  
*135th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*  
**Capt. Mark Miller**  
*Task Force Marne Public Affairs*

**CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq** – Throughout Iraq, the 89th anniversary of Iraqi Armed Forces Day was celebrated, Jan. 6. This significant event has been celebrated since 1921, and is also known as Iraqi Army Day.

“This is the date the Army started,” said Maj. Gen. Salah-al Din Mustafa Kamal, commander of the 4th Iraqi Army Division, which is made up of approximately 14,350 Soldiers.

This is the first time that the Iraqis can celebrate their anniversary without a U.S. presence, which is an indicator that they are self-reliant now

and will be in the future, said U.S. Army Col. Jim Ekvall, the senior U.S. advisor for Maj. Gen. Salah and the 4th Iraqi Army Division. Colonel Ekvall works with the general every day to discuss various doctrinal processes and tactical and technical procedures to help achieve the objective in the Salah ad-Din province.

Like many others across Iraq, Maj. Gen. Salah started his day with a ceremony recognizing the significance of Iraqi Army Day. The general spoke to an audience in his division headquarters about the history of the Iraqi Army and reiterated the army’s purpose, which is to support the institution of the government.

“We’ve never had an official Iraqi holiday, or Independence Day like the United States celebrates,” said Maj. Gen. Salah. “For us, Iraqi Army Day is

a day where we all come together. It’s our Independence Day.

“The intent is to protect the institution, not interfere. The democratic Army is there to serve the government of the people. We have a democratic and professional Army.”

According to Col. Ekvall, the 4th Iraqi Army is getting stronger every day.

“The 4th Iraqi Division is stronger and better than they were a year ago and with each passing day, they continue to grow technically and tactically,” he said. “I expect to continue to work side-by-side as the U.S. Army withdraws and the Iraqi army takes responsibility for the security of their nation.”

In Mosul, Brig. Gen. Thomas Vandal, the Task Force Marne deputy commanding general-Support, addressed Iraqi government and military leaders

at a celebration where he spoke about the future of Iraq. With much optimism, he said the U.S. and Iraqi forces both share the goals of a safe and secure Iraq that allows for sovereignty, diplomatic strength and the Iraqi economic prosperity.

Major General Hassan, commander of Ninewa Operations Command; Provincial Governor Faisa; and Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police commanders celebrated their Armed Services Day at the Al Tayaran Social Center.

Iraqi military and government leaders also praised the efforts of the Iraqi Armed Services encouraging pride and commitment to their ongoing mission. After speeches and words of encouragement for the Iraqi military, everyone in attendance enjoyed a meal together to complete the celebration.

# 15th Inf Engineers clear routes in Dragon AO

**Staff Sgt. Natalie Hedrick**  
*3rd HBCT Public Affairs*

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE ECHO, Iraq** – It was late. While most Soldiers at FOB Echo had already gone to bed the evening of the Jan. 2, Soldiers from Company E, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division were preparing for their day of work to begin.

It was 1st Platoon’s day to go out. After receiving their mission brief, the engineers made their way to the motor pool where their chariots awaited. Soldiers quickly prepped their Caiman armored vehicles, their Buffalo mine protected clearance vehicle, and their Husky engineering vehicle. They had a long night ahead of them.

“I can’t believe the Army is paying me to do this,” Pvt. Evanan Elias said as he jumped down from the back of his vehicle. “I love being an engineer.”

When it was just about time to leave, the protective gear was put on and the last of the cigarettes were put out. Drivers, gunners, truck commanders, medics, and mechanics made their way to their assigned seats.

Their mission this deployment sounds simple enough – to provide freedom of movement for friendly forces throughout the “Dragon” operational environment. The details in gaining “mission complete” status, in reality are anything but easy.

“We are the first line of defense for everyone who travels in this (Operating Environment),” said Sgt. Eric McFarland, truck commander for the Buffalo that day. “It’s pretty rewarding knowing that our job is finding (improvised explosive devices) so no one gets hit.”

Although most of the Soldiers from 1st Platoon agree their job is gratifying, there are difficul-

ties they endure before, during, and after each mission.

Specialist Sean Bryant is a mechanic assigned to 1st Platoon. Although he is not an engineer by trade, he travels with them on every mission.

“I had to learn the engineering equipment,” he said. “It’s difficult sometimes because I have to stay up all night to work to keep their vehicles on the road.”

Sergeant McFarland, although proud of his work as an engineer, admits there is always a tinge of anxiety when he rolls out the gate.

“Even though we are the ones who clear the roads,” he said. “We never really know when we might get attacked or something might go off.”

Private Jocue Valencia, who drove the Buffalo that night, has a certain appreciation for the hardships he goes through.

“After hearing the stories from Sgt. Mac (McFarland) about last deployment, I really can’t com-

plain,” he said. “I wasn’t expecting this coming into the Army.”

One thing that many engineers from 1st Platoon said keeps them motivated is that they are not going through anything alone.

The chatter overflowed from each truck in the convoy. Games like “name your top five hottest celebrities” and “name your top three best movies of all time” bounced from truck to truck via radio. Each engineer with something to say made sure to include everyone in their conversation, regardless of which vehicle they were riding in.

“It’s like when we’re out on the road, everyone starts flapping their gums and gets their frustrations out,” Spc. Bryant explained. “But when we get back, everyone’s copacetic. We joke around with each other out there, but no one gets (their feelings) hurt.”

“We are pretty tight in the platoon,” added Staff Sgt. Vincent Oliver from over the

radio. “There are no real clicks and everyone gets along.”

“Except for the medic, he’s an attachment,” Staff Sgt. Oliver’s driver jokingly added with the platoon medic sitting directly behind him.

Six hours and countless wise-cracks later, the convoy pulled back into the gates of FOB Echo.

“Every time we come back through the gates and no one got hurt,” Pvt. Valencia said. “Now that’s the most rewarding part of this job.”

Soldiers ran down the list of what they were going to do after they parked and closed down their vehicles. Some were tired and couldn’t wait to get back to their rooms. Others were going to the gym. Others were meeting for breakfast as soon as it opened.

Most Soldiers on FOB Echo were still sleeping. The mission of clearing another route in the Dragon OE was complete – until next time.



## Ft. Stewart/Hunter Morale, Welfare & Recreation

### “Get to Know Your Customer Day” @ Corkan

18 Jan., 1:30-8:30 p.m. – Corkan Family Fun Center, Bldg. 449  
Come on out to the fun center and enjoy the matinee rates. We appreciate your patronage all year long and are striving to serve you better. 767-9884.

### Girlfriends Day-Bouldering Class @ FS

21 Jan., 6-9 p.m. – Corkan Family Fun Center, Bldg. 449  
Open to girls who want a challenge and are interested in “Bouldering.” Climb no higher than 8 feet and move from side to side. Cost \$3.50 per person/session includes climbing, equipment and instruction. 767-9884



### “Walk to Iraq Kick-Off” @ FS

23 Jan., 9 a.m. – Donovan Field  
“Walk to Iraq” is in support of our deployed Soldiers. Come join Families of Soldiers deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan in a display of patriotism and public support. More information: 767-4316 and contact your FRG leader or FRSA to register.

### Chinese New Year’s Sunday Brunch @ FS, HAAF

24 Jan., 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Club Stewart, Bldg. 405 – Hunter Club, Bldg. 6015

Menu features breakfast items, traditional Chinese favorites. Advance tickets (\$2 off adults and \$1 off for children) available at club information counters. Prices at door: Corporal and below: \$12.95 for adults, \$6.45 for children (ages 5-10), children (under age 5) free. Sergeant and above and all others: \$14.95 for adults, \$7.45 for children (ages 5-10), children (under age 5) free. More information: 368-2212 (Stewart) or 459-7923 (Hunter).



### Storytime: Bedtime Stories @ FS Library

27 Jan., 7 p.m. – George P. Hays Library, Bldg. 411  
Children of all ages invited to hear bedtime stories. Wear your pajamas, bring your favorite blanket and stuffed animal. 767-2828

### Get a Jump on Valentine’s Day @ FS Library

28 Jan., 4:30-5:30 p.m. – George P. Hays Library, Bldg. 411  
Special Valentine’s Day Themed Cards project by outside instructor Kathy Anhorn at Hays Library in partnership w/Child, Youth and School Services (CYSS) EDGE Program. Children get a jump on making Valentine’s Day cards for friends and Family. Parents need to enroll children/youth at CYSS Central Registration 767-2312. Limited space. Details: 767-1341.

### “Dive-in Movie” @ HAAF

29 Jan., 6 p.m. – Tominac Fitness Center Indoor Pool, Bldg. 919  
Bring your floats, enjoy movie “Ice Age” as you lounge in pool at Hunter. No charge Open to Active Duty military, Reserves, Retirees, Family Members, Army Civilians and guests of Military ID cardholders. Children 15 years of age and younger must be accompanied by an adult. 315-5078.

### Stewart/Hunter Continental Pheasant Shoot

3 Feb. Sign-up Deadline; Event 13 Feb.

Stewart’s Taro Drop Zone (A1), FS Road 56

Group 1 starts 8:30 a.m., Group 2 at 12:30 p.m. Drawing 5 Feb. for each of 40 available slots. Active Duty Soldiers have priority, remaining slots filled by Retirees, civilians. Stewart permit, state hunting license and hunter safety card not required.

\$35 per person fee includes lunch (11:30 a.m. for all shooters). Register at Stewart Pass & Permit Office, Bldg. 8093. Details: Pass & Permit Office 435-8061 or Leisure Travel Office 767-2841.





# Stewart-Hunter Town Hall issues addresses key issues

Next Town Hall will be held:

5:30 p.m.  
Feb. 3 at Club Stewart  
Feb. 4 at Hunter Club

**Q:** *A resident asked why none of the new pumps at the shoppette near the museum were printing receipts, and why is diesel fuel not available at that location?*

**A:** AAFES representative replied that all but five pumps are now printing receipts, and there were repair persons on site today to repair the others. She did not know why diesel fuel was not available but would find the answer and provide an update.

**UPDATE:** All pumps are now printing receipts. Although AAFES offers diesel and E-85 fuel at some exchanges, there is not enough demand at Fort Stewart to justify the expense of adding diesel or flex fuel tanks and dispensers. AAFES is required to make business decisions that ensure it is prudent with its customers' money. If demographics change and diesel and flex fuel usage becomes more prominent in the area, AAFES will consider offering it at your installation.

**Q:** *A resident stated that the cross-walk between the Division Headquarters and the Soldier Center was not acceptable. It required you to jump over a ditch on one side and to use a dirt path on the other.*

**A:** DPW replied that they were aware of the problem, and a work order has been completed and approved.

**UPDATE:** This project was completed the first week of December 2009.

**Q:** *A resident at Hunter Army Airfield commented that many of the trees planted on Warriors Walk are ill and dying. What is being done to prevent this?*

**A:** The garrison commander responded that these are eastern red bud trees; and we are at the extreme southern limit for keeping this type of tree alive. As a result, we have been replacing five to ten trees a month. We have learned that if we can get a tree to the two-year mark, it will continue to flourish. We have tested the soil, had environmental specialists check what we are doing, and they could not give us any more information.

**Q:** *A resident wants to see a variety of craft shops on post. He believes that this would be a great distraction for children and spouses during deployment. He also believes these shops should be an entitlement and free to Families.*

**A:** The garrison commander replied that this has been looked at before, and there was no demand identified for persons wishing to have these shops. However, DFWMR will look again to see if anything has changed.

**UPDATE:** DFMWR will continue

to gather input from our customers to see if there is enough interest in setting up some craft classes in the future. Classes are being offered through the FRG Deployment Menu of activities. FRG's can schedule classes. Some of the classes available are matting and framing, painting, sketching and drawing. Times and dates will be coordinated with instructor and FRG through Leisure Activities. Classes will start in Februray 2010.

**Q:** *What happened to the new Child Development Center?*

**A:** The new center on Fort Stewart had their grand opening on Nov. 20 and Hunter Army Airfield's new CDC will be opening Feb. 24. Also, a modular CDC is being built next to the new CDC on Hunter and two additional modular CDCs are being built at Hunter as well, with an estimated completion in May or June. There are two modular CDCs being built here on Stewart, one near Brittin Elementary and the other near Diamond Elementary.

**Q:** *Has there been any consideration for a Thrift Shop on Fort Stewart?*

**A:** The garrison commander said it has been and will continue to be considered, but there are challenges in starting one. It needs to be run by a private organization, and the garrison needs to provide the space. Right now, we have no empty space on Fort Stewart. In addition, we are hoping to relocate the Thrift Shop at Hunter to a better location. The building they are presently using in is an eyesore; however, currently there is no other space available.

**Q:** *All the hunting events being offered on Fort Stewart either leave out retirees or permit a very small number of retirees to participate. Would it be possible to have a retiree hunt?*

**A:** All managed hunts on FS are strictly for active duty Soldiers. We only open it to retiree or veterans if not all of the slots are taken by active duty, which to date, has never happened. We will look into changing the sign-up dates for active duty, which may open some extra slots for retirees and veterans and the possibility of planning a specific event for retirees and veterans.

**UPDATE:** DFMWR will look at setting up a managed deer hunt next hunting season for retirees.

**Q:** *When will the shoppette near Southern Oaks be open?*

**A:** The Harmon Shoppette's grand opening is scheduled for Jan. 15.

**Q:** *Resident at Hunter thanked the*

*community for the new gas station there and asked if it would be possible to have an ATM machine there?*

**A:** AAFES replied that they were already planning to place one there. She would check and update when it would happen.

**UPDATE:** The bank has approved the placement of an ATM machine at the new gas station. We are working the requirements to get it placed, although the date of placement has not yet been determined.

**Q:** *What can be done about dog poop in the housing areas?*

**A:** The garrison commander replied that this was again about self-discipline. It is the owner's responsibility to clean up after their pets. If they are not doing this, and you know the dog owners' names, you can report them to the BBC community liaison. Or, there is a Soldier who should be in charge in your neighborhood. Find out who that is and give him the person's name. These Soldiers do not stop working just because they leave their place of duty at 5 p.m.; they need to help enforce rules in the housing area.

**Q:** *Can something be done about the cars not stopping for retreat?*

**A:** Again, self-discipline is required. People know they should stop; they just choose not to. Previously, I instructed five MP cars to be in the vicinity around Building 1 at 5 p.m. to stop vehicles for retreat. However, I have recently changed that policy. I have instructed DES to have all MPs stop their vehicles, put their flasher on, and get out of the car and salute. If you see someone not stopping, get their license plate number and call it into the MPs. We will see if there is anything we can do about it.

**Q:** *A resident thanked the DES command sergeant major for his help. He stated that the Halloween Trunk or Treat event was great. Additionally, he added how impressed he is with all the work that has been done in the past six months in the housing area. Lots of work has been done with scraping and painting, and lawns are looking good. He concluded by asking why Families looking for housing on post can only drive by and peek in the windows. Why are they not permitted to enter the unit?*

**A:** The garrison commander replied that they ask Families to first drive by the units that are available. Once they have looked at the units and neighborhoods, the Family can go back to BBC and let them know which units they are interested in seeing the interior. They will then be escorted to look inside those houses that are empty.

**Q:** *In the housing area around my*

*building, trash is being blown into my yard and when the lawn is mowed, none of the trash is removed. The mowers run over it, resulting in trash being all over the place. My second issue is that when they are edging, they never pay attention to what direction the debris is being sent, often allowing it to hit parked cars.*

**A:** The garrison commander replied that they were aware of the problems arising from edging but had not heard about trash being mowed over. It will be looked into as well. We have been discussing with BBC ways to be more courteous in their edging and mowing so that the resident does not need to clean up the mess the landscapers leave behind.

**Q:** *Drivers continue to speed past troop formations and road marches, putting the safety of Soldiers at great risk. Would it be possible to have more "when passing troop signs" posted?*

**A:** We are currently discussing this issue with your chain of command and hope to have a solution soon. We will look at the option of more signs when we meet with your command. Again, this is an example of self-discipline. Drivers know they should not speed when troops are present. DPW replied that they have just placed 16 new "10 mph when troops present" signs around post recently in areas they know troops are training, and we are monitoring the areas to see if they are helping.

**Q:** *I am retired military and you should see some of the houses our Soldiers are living in off post. They are in terrible condition. I have been working with the local real estate agents to see if there is a way we can change the rent clause, which states "renter is responsible for the lawn," but I have not gotten anywhere with my suggestion.*

**A:** The garrison commander replied we would take it up with our local Veteran's Affairs Commission; they may be interested in sponsoring some Families to help with lawn maintenance.

He reminded all squad leaders and section sergeants that it is okay to go to your Soldier's home and make sure they are living in quality housing. It is all right to enter your Soldier's barracks room every day; it is really all right to do this. Your chain of command has that expectation of you.

**UPDATE:** Due to the fact off-post realtors are private businesses, legally, there is no way to include the clause in a lease. Garrison Command will present this issue to local veteran's groups for feedback.

Local veterans groups are very supportive of our installation and our Soldiers. One or more groups may wish to initiate an assistance program as a service project.

## Relic hunters beware artifact laws

Joseph Paul Maggioni  
Directorate of Public Works

The Archeological Resources and Protection Act, or ARPA, protects our nation's archeological cultural and historic objects and sites for all U.S. citizens. ARPA prohibits actual or attempted excavation, removal, damaging, altering or defacement of archeological resources on public lands—including the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Reservations. Simply searching for pre-historic, Colonial, Civil War or any other kind of artifact with or without digging may be a crime. Also, according to Army Regulation 200-4, the use of metal detectors to locate archeological sites on post is strictly prohibited.

Criminal penalties for ARPA violations include up to two years' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250,000, restoration and repair costs plus the archeological value of the damaged (or destroyed) site, and/or the taking of all personal property utilized in the violation up to and including vehicles and metal detection equipment. In addition, civil penalties may also be

imposed. The federal court system strongly enforces ARPA and its related statutes.

In addition to criminal penalties, some areas of the Installation are contaminated with unexploded ordnance from over 60 years of supporting multiple active ranges—so be advised that unauthorized digging on the reservation without the proper permits and safety checks will put you in harm's way!

Please do not risk incurring serious personal injury through inadvertent detonation of UXO, a criminal record, financial penalties, losing your right to vote, and losing your right to possess firearms by looting artifacts from Fort Stewart or Hunter Army Airfield. Obey these laws and respect the rich archeological and historical heritage on our installations. For more information on ARPA and related laws and regulations, contact DPW, Environmental Division, Cultural Resource Management at 767-2010.

Please help protect our nation's heritage. Report any crimes by calling conservation law enforcement branch at 435-8012 or 8013.

## Community encouraged to protect finances, learn about credit fraud

### Army Community Service

Due to a recent rash of fraudulent debit and credit card charges against Soldiers and Family Members at Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield, community members are encouraged to learn how to protect against credit fraud.

If you lose a credit or debit card, immediately report it to the appropriate credit agency or bank and law enforcement agency.

You can contact one of the major credit reporting agencies (Experian, Equifax or TransUnion) and add a credit fraud alert to your account to help protect against unauthorized use. Contacting one of the three will automatically trigger a response to all three. If you are the victim of fraud, you can request an extended credit fraud alert.

Acquiring a copy of your credit report you can watch out for fraudulent accounts or loans. If fraudulent

accounts or loans are identified, report the matter to the credit reporting agency. Contact the business where the fraud was committed, notify them and obtain additional information such as date opened, name and billing address used.

If you're the victim of fraud, contact the local police and State Attorney General (often available Online) in the state where the actual fraudulent purchases were made. File a fraud report there.

Also report the incident to the Federal Trade Commission at [www.FTC.gov](http://www.FTC.gov). The FTC has a special section for military members and Families to report fraud.

As an added protection measure, debit card agencies can often be notified to only use the card as debit, not credit, mandating the use of a pin code to complete transactions. Also, lowering your credit limit and maximum withdrawal can provide added protection.



# Education Matters



## \$3000 VA payment not intended for AD

WARNING! Soldiers should not attempt to collect the \$3,000 advance payment from the Veterans Administration unless they meet the eligibility requirements at <http://www.gibill.va.gov/advpayqa.htm>.

The "Emergency Payments for Veterans Awaiting VA Educational Benefits" is meant primarily for Veterans or eligible Family Members attending school and should not be issued to individuals on active duty. Do not attempt to get payment if you are active duty.

For active duty servicemembers who have received the \$3,000, you will have to pay it back. The VA is investigating the situation and guidelines will be issued shortly.

The best POC is the VA Web site above. VA can be reached Mon.-Wed. at 888-442-4551 (888-GI-BILL 1).

## Online academic skills course available

The Peterson's Online Academic Skills Course is now available to all the Services, Army Civilians, and Family Members. OASC is designed for individuals who want to build their math and verbal skills to excel in their jobs, pass their exams, advance their careers, or continue their education.

The course will diagnose the individual's current level of reading comprehension, vocabulary, and math abilities and teach the concepts and skills needed to increase proficiency in each of these academic areas.

This course is available free of charge and can be accessed on any computer at any time. To register, click on [www.petersons.com/dantes](http://www.petersons.com/dantes).

## Educational funding available to spouses

The Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts Program, "MyCAA" is for military spouses of active duty and activated Guard and Reserve servicemembers.

This centralized, virtual program provides counseling and funding up to \$6,000, to assist with licensure, certification or education opportunities leading to portable employment opportunities; trade programs or college degrees. You may use the school of your choice, either selecting classroom or online delivery. All on-post and most area schools participate.

This process is all done online and by phone with MilitaryOneSource, (800) 342-9647. For complete details and to initiate an account, click on <https://aiportal.acc.af.mil/mycaa>.

## Source available for Post-9/11 GI Bill

The Post-9/11 GI Bill, Chapter 33, is a non-contributory benefit (no up-front payment required by Soldiers) for those who served on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001.

The Veterans Administration Web site at [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov) provides in-depth eligibility information and a link to the on-line application. It also includes all information and steps concerning transferability to Family Members.

Individuals currently eligible for benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty or other similar programs, can continue under their program or make the decision to transfer to the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Since the choice is irrevocable, it will not be possible to switch back to the previous VA benefit program. It

is recommended that you research the differences by clicking on the "More About the Post-9/11 GI Bill" bar and then selecting the benefit comparison chart link.

Also try [www.gibill.va.gov/CH33Estimator](http://www.gibill.va.gov/CH33Estimator), which calculates the eligible tuition, fees and housing allowance for your zip code. If you have questions after exploring the Web site, call 888-442-4551.

## E-mail counselor-support made available

Need to reach an Army education counselor, even while deployed? Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield education centers offer a one-stop e-mail address to help. Just contact them via e-mail at [stewcounselor@conus.army.mil](mailto:stewcounselor@conus.army.mil).

## Take CLEP, DANTES exams

College Level Examination Program and DANTES Subject Standardized Tests are available on post. Call Columbia College at 767-7558 for more information and testing dates. The exams are free for military personnel. CLEP tests are \$92 and DSSTs are \$100 for non-military examinees.

## Education Center Services Resume

The Army Education Centers are now fully operational, to include civilian/military testing at Fort Stewart and Soldier computer access at both sites. The Learning Center hours at Fort Stewart are from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Mon.-Thurs. and 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays.

At Hunter, the Learning Center is open from 8 a.m.-5:15 p.m., Mon.-Fri. Call 767-8331 for additional information.

# MEB Outreach legal office assists, advises Soldiers

## Katherine Ingram

MEB Outreach Attorney

Sometimes serious illnesses or injuries are so severe or long term that the Soldier's future ability to serve in the military needs to be evaluated. If you have been referred for a medical evaluation board, it is important for you to know that you are entitled to free legal representation. The MEB Outreach Legal office consists of a

paralegal and an attorney and is located in the Soldier and Family Assistance Center, building 12718. Legal services during the MEB are available to assist all Soldiers who are referred to an MEB/PEB, not just Soldiers assigned to the Warriors in Transition Unit.

The MEB Outreach legal office can provide general information about the process and a Soldier's rights. Upon receiving a DA Form 3947 and narrative

summary, and prior to signing the MEB, the MEB Outreach legal office can review your medical board and provide case-specific advice, ensure you understand your options to concur or non-concur and help you make an informed decision as to whether to request to continue to serve in the Army.

Once you receive the informal PEB decision, the MEB Outreach legal office can review the results with the Soldier,

and explain and advise the Soldier of his right to dispute the findings, request a formal hearing, request counsel, challenge their VA ratings and assist in making an informed election of rights. She'll work with the Soldiers Counsel at Fort Sam Houston, Texas to create and implement a plan to maximize the Soldier's desired outcome at the PEB. hearing with representation. Call 767-4966 for more information or an appointment.

# Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Briefs

## Weekend Dining Facility hours posted

The Fort Stewart weekend dining facility for Jan. 15-18 is Provider Dining Facility, building 726. Fort Stewart dining facility weekend serving hours are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for brunch, and 3:30-5:30 p.m. for dinner.

The Hunter Army Airfield weekend dining facility for Jan. 15-18 is the 1/75 Ranger dining facility, building 110. Hunter Army Airfield dining facility weekend serving hours are 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for brunch, and 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. for dinner.

The Warrior Transition Battalion Dining Facility, building 12902 in the National Guard training area, weekend serving hours are breakfast, 8-9:30 a.m.; lunch, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and dinner, 5-6:30 p.m.

## DFAC Hotline opens

Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield has a DFAC hotline to inform customers of operational DFAC's during non-duty days. To access this service for hours and operational DFAC's please call 767-4991.

## Stewart

### Coin Covenant scheduled

The first Coin and Covenant event for Spouses of deployed Soldiers is Jan. 21 from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Fort Stewart Main Post Chapel Activity Center. Coin and Covenant is a Chaplain led program and began as units deployed. It continues with monthly themes to assist married couples in remaining connected from a distance. The program includes a 30-minute presentation from the Family Life Chaplain about Loving, Honoring, and Cherishing your spouse as well as a short guide to Support Systems.

All Spouses who have a Soldier deployed are welcome to attend. If you would like to attend please RSVP to Spc. Jones at 767-5409.

Food is provided by the Chapel congregations. Child care is also free. Children must be enrolled with CYSS. If you will use child care you must send the names and ages of children to Spc. Jones at [Brandon.C.Jones2@us.army.mil](mailto:Brandon.C.Jones2@us.army.mil) or by phone at 767-5409. Child care will be provided at the CDC, building 403 next to Marne Lanes. Please remember, children must be enrolled with CYSS, the Spouse must be attending Coin and Covenant, and names and ages of children must be sent to Spc. Jones in order to use childcare.

### Lock-in cancelled

The Bryan Village Youth Center's "Fort Stewart Lock-in" that was scheduled for Jan. 23-24 has been postponed

until further notice. A new date will be set shortly.

### NCO Recruiter coming to Ed Center

The "Recruit the Recruiter" team will brief all Sergeants through Sergeants First Class regarding the benefits, challenges and qualifications of recruiting duty. How does more money, faster promotions and assignment preference sound to you? Do not miss this presentation! The "Recruit the Recruiter" team visits Fort Stewart at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center, room 250, at 1:30 p.m., Jan. 14.

For more information, contact Sgt. 1st Class Bias at (866)268-5278 or email [wallace.bias@usarec.army.mil](mailto:wallace.bias@usarec.army.mil).

### OSC offers scholarship

The Officer Spouse's Club at Fort Stewart is currently accepting applications for the 2010 scholarship. The scholarship is open to spouses or dependents of an active duty servicemember, active-duty Guard or Reserve member, retired member or deceased member. Scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors, continuing undergraduates, undergraduate spouse, and graduate spouse continuing. For more information go to [www.thesteelmagnolia.org](http://www.thesteelmagnolia.org).

### Fort Stewart commissary hours change

The Fort Stewart Commissary will close at 5 p.m., Feb. 28, have regular business hours on March 1 and will be closed on March 2.

This unusual closure is to allow us the opportunity to reset the entire dry product section resulting in a better shopping experience for you, our military patron. Thank you in advance for your patience and apologize for any inconvenience this one time change may cause.

### Shop of the Marne re-opens

The Shop of the Marne will host a re-opening event for the Magnolia Room from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Feb. 6. The Magnolia Room is available for rent for coffees, teas, meetings, baby showers, and more. Please call 767-9268 for more information or for reservations.

### Road closure scheduled

There is a scheduled road closure for Wilson Ave at the intersection of West 6th Street, from 5 p.m., Jan. 14 to 5 p.m., Jan. 18. Both lanes will be effected. Subject closure is necessary for the installation of the new Chilled Water lines. Detour signs and traffic control devices will be displayed and posted for the closure duration.

Motorists are encouraged to avoid this area to minimize traffic congestion and to be alert to changes

## Hwy 144 speed reduced

The speed limit between the Fort Stewart garrison and the Holbrook Recreation Area on Ga. Highway 144 has been indefinitely reduced to 45 mph.

Anticipated increased traffic flow into and out of the area by large recreational vehicles and vehicles towing boats requires slower speeds to maintain safety in the area. Added services and significant improvements to the Holbrook Recreation Area include a camper, boat, and RV storage area, upgrades to existing pavilions and overnight cottages, and a pet boarding facility. In addition, large Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation events are held at the Holbrook Pond Recreation Area.

Safety is paramount. Be aware of campers and other RV's turning into and out of the Holbrook Pond Recreation Area, and reduce your speed in the vicinity.

in traffic patterns.

For more information, contact Terry Wheeler, Corps of Engineers, at (912)228-7451.

### TMP hours reduced

Effective Jan. 18, TMP Operations business hours at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield will be reduced.

New operational hours are as follows:

Fort Stewart TMP Business Hours - 0630 - 1530 - Monday thru Friday

Hunter Army Airfield TMP Business Hours - 0730 - 1630 - Monday thru Friday

Hunter Army Airfield Driver Testing will provide services two days per week, Monday and Friday.

POCs for further information is Rita Johanson, ITO, 435-0153 or John Brinson, Fleet Manager/COR, 435-0285.

## Hunter

### School superintendent visits Hunter

Dr. Thomas Lockamy, Superintendent, Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools, will be at the Hunter Club from noon-1:30 p.m., today to share with members of the Hunter military community SCCPS's partnership with Hunter and to discuss topics impacting military children from Hunter.

Members of the Hunter Army Airfield military community are invited to attend this town hall-format meeting.

## Balfour Beatty Communities

## Hunter

### Cell phones for Soldiers

Help Soldiers overseas call home. By donating any old cell phone, you can help provide calling cards for Soldiers serving overseas. The phones are sent to ReCellular, which pays Cell Phones for Soldiers for each donated phone – enough to provide an hour of talk time to Soldiers abroad.

Drop boxes can be found at our Community Management Office and our New Savannah/New Callaway Community Center through Jan. 15.

### Kid Inventors' Day

Think you have a great idea or invention that needs to be seen? Then come to The New Savannah/New Callaway Community Center from 5-6 p.m., Jan. 19. Bring in a model of your idea, or your idea/invention on paper, and we'll be the judge. Gift cards awarded to best ideas. We will also have an erector set for you to really put your imaginations to work!

### Popcorn Day

Stop by for a salty snack! We'll be giving away free popcorn at our Leasing Office from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Jan. 22.

### Spouses' Day

Stop by for a free carnation and card to take home to show your spouse you care at the Community Management Office from 1-4 p.m., Jan. 27. It's a nice way to say, "I was thinking of you."

## Stewart

### Cell Phones for Soldiers

Help Soldiers overseas call home. By donating any old cell phone, you can help provide calling cards for Soldiers serving overseas. The phones are sent to ReCellular, which pays Cell Phones for Soldiers for each donated phone – enough to provide an hour of talk time to Soldiers abroad.

Location: Drop boxes can be found at our Liberty Woods Leasing Office and our Southern Oaks Community Center through Jan. 15.

### Barbie Party

Girls, bring your favorite Barbie, and her accessories, to play with neighbors and friends, at The Southern Oaks Community Center from 3:30-4:30 p.m., Thursday. Boys, action figures are welcome too!

### Winter Wonderland

Due to poor weather last month, this event was postponed. The rescheduled event will take place at : The Liberty Woods Housing Office from 1-3 p.m., Jan. 16. Come enjoy a white winter wonderland with snow on the ground! You can even make your own snowman; but watch out for snowballs! Bundle up and don't forget your gloves!

### Kid Inventors' Day

Think you have a great idea or invention that needs to be seen? Then come to The Southern Oaks Community Center from 3:30-4:30 p.m., Jan. 20. Bring in a model of your idea, or your idea/invention on paper, and we'll be the judge. Gift cards awarded to best ideas. We will also have an erector set for you to really put your imaginations to work!

### Popcorn Day

Stop by for a salty snack! We'll be giving away free popcorn at our The Liberty Woods Housing Office from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Jan. 25.

### Spouses' Day

Stop by the Liberty Woods Housing Office from 1-4 p.m., Jan. 26, for a free carnation and card to take home to show your spouse you care. It's a nice way to say, "I was thinking of you."

### Chalk art

Let your creativity soar with Chalk Art! Join a real artist as she shows you great ways to create beautiful art using chalk at the Southern Oaks Community Center from 3:30-4:30 p.m., Jan. 28.

*For more information about upcoming events, please contact your LifeWorks Coordinator, Amber Humphries, at 408-2478 or [ahumphries@bbcgrp.com](mailto:ahumphries@bbcgrp.com). These events are also posted on our website at [www.fortstewartfamilyhousing.com](http://www.fortstewartfamilyhousing.com)*

## BBC Foundation accepting scholarship applications

### Dianne Borges

*Balfour Beatty Communities*

In 2009 Balfour Beatty Communities, responsible for the privatized Family housing at Fort Stewart, formed Balfour Beatty Communities Foundation, a non-profit organization committed to honoring military personnel – active, disabled and fallen – and their Families.

One of the primary goals of the Foundation is to promote the pursuit of education and a commitment to community leadership through educational scholarships to the children of active duty military members that reside in Family housing.

The Foundation is again offering scholarships that reward high school and undergraduate students in need of financial assistance, recognizing their educational and leadership efforts.

Family housing residents with high school and undergraduate students are encouraged to apply for these scholarships for the 2010-2011 academic year; valued up to \$2,500. The application, details and requirements can be found at [www.bbcommunitiesfoundation.org](http://www.bbcommunitiesfoundation.org). The application deadline is April 15.

Balfour Beatty Communities Foundation was proud to award 17 academic scholarships to students residing in its communities across the country for the 2009-2010 academic year.

According to Bruce Robinson, president and CEO, "Balfour Beatty Communities is committed to providing a quality living environment that supports the diverse interests and needs of our military Families. Through Balfour Beatty Communities Foundation, we say thank you for the work that you do and the sacrifices military Families make."

## LEGAL NOTICE

Anyone having any claims, or who is indebted to the estate of **1st Sgt. Michael Anderson**, of HHC, STB, 3rd Sustainment Bde, Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314 should contact Capt. Anna Walls, HHC, STB, 3rd Sustainment Bde, Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314 at (912) 767-5613.

Anyone having any claims, or who is indebted to the estate of **Spc. Jamie Blasingame**, of B Co., 3rd BSB, 1st HBCT, Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314 should contact 1st Lt. Shane McKinley, 3rd BSB, 1st HBCT, Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314 at (912) 220-5985.

Anyone having any claims, or who is indebted to the estate of **Spc. Nicholas Adams**, of E Co., 2/7 Inf. Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314, should contact 1st Lt. Gurpreet Singh, E Co., 2/7 Inf. Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314 at (912) 767-9845.

Anyone having any claims, or who is indebted to the estate of **Pfc. Pauley Jaiciae**, of HHC 1/30th Inf. Reg., Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314, should contact Capt. Derrick Lucarelli, Rear Detachment, 1/30th Inf. Reg., Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314 at (912) 767-8553.



# 3 HBCT holds women's town hall to support female Soldiers

**Staff Sgt. Natalie Hedrick**  
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE ECHO, Iraq** – Female Soldiers from the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division attended a women's town hall meeting at the dining facility on Forward Operating Base Kalsu, Iraq, Jan. 8.

The meeting supported the unit's female Soldier deployment readiness luncheon held before the 3rd HBCT deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in October 2009.

During the event, Soldiers were introduced to leaders of health and

welfare services such as behavioral health, stress management, and the unit victim advocate program.

"One of the purposes of this meeting today is to inform you of what agencies to go to when you have a problem and where to find those agencies," explained Command Sgt. Maj. James Pearson, 3rd HBCT.

Command Sergeant Major Pearson opened the floor for questions after speaking to the Soldiers on the sexual harassment and assault policy in the brigade.

"I want you hear these words come straight from my mouth," he said. "Sexual harassment and sexual assault

will not be tolerated in this brigade. Action will be taken."

For many of the Soldiers, the town hall meeting was a chance to put faces to names, not only of the leaders but also their female battle buddies.

"No one understands female Soldiers like other female Soldiers," said Capt. Joan Hollein, commander for Headquarters Troop, 3rd HBCT, 3rd ID.

Specialist Michelle Cook, Headquarters Company, 203rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, is one of those Soldiers who understands what it takes to be a female in the military.

"Sometimes we have to go out of our way to get respected," she said. "We have

to prove ourselves where sometimes male Soldiers are just expected to do well."

Although many deemed the meeting a success, there were concerns which surfaced among the audience.

"I feel there were some concerns that people weren't saying," said Spc. Brentney Williams, Headquarters Company, 203rd BSB. "I think some people just weren't comfortable. I think there needs to be a way to get people to talk more. It's important."

The 3rd HBCT will continue holding women's town hall meetings during the unit's current deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

## FARMERS

from Page 1A

"Agriculture in the province of Ninewa, including Sununi, is approximately 80 percent of the economic base here," Lt. Col. Bensburg said. "It drives a lot of the economic development within this province. We thought it would make a very important contribution if we could support that industry by purchasing these tractors for them."

According to Capt. Brian Genze, 25th Infantry Division, helping the Sununi farmers is a big goal for the PRT, as well as Task Force Marne Soldiers.

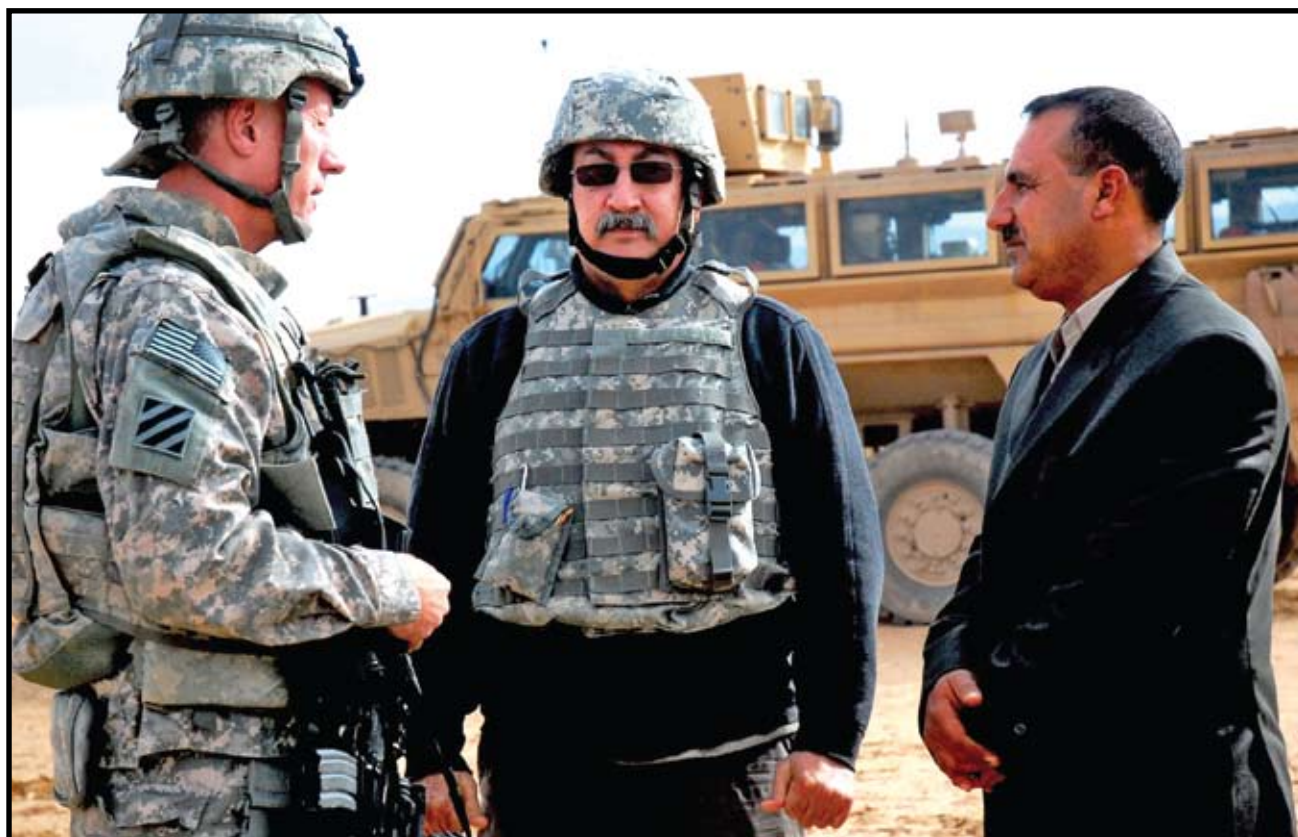
"A lot of these farmers depend mainly on their crops for financial support," Capt. Genze said. "Lately, due to droughts, a large percentage of them have not been able to produce as much as they are normally

accustomed to. The shortage of crops led to less money, which forced a lot of the farmers to sell their tractors in order to provide for their family."

Captain Genze added that the Sununi people are very independent and are striving for financial success in their area.

"Since we have been here, the people of Sununi have shown nothing but cooperation with us," he added.

"On both ends, we are doing everything in our power to continue building a great working relationship," he said. "We're helping the citizens as much as possible without making any dependencies. Hopefully, the equipment we gave them today will have a positive impact on their economic development."



Pfc. Crystal M. O'Neal

**Lieutenant Colonel Robert Bensburg (left), PRT, speaks with Sununi's Agricultural Director, Barkat Issa Azar, about Sununi's economic development during the Task Force Marne Soldiers' stop in Sununi to deliver tractors and combines to Sununi farmers, Dec. 22.**



# Task Force Marne Soldiers train Iraqi Federal Police

**Pfc. Crystal M. O'Neal**  
2nd HBCT Public Affairs

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE MAREZ, Iraq** – A Soldier, in full battle gear with his M-4 rifle in hand, stands in front of the formation, demonstrating firing techniques, as another Soldier moves through the ranks. Row by row, the latter Soldier watches, stopping beside any member of the ranks who appears to be having trouble correctly performing the techniques his battle buddy in front of the group is demonstrating.

The student listens and watches as the Soldier grabs his AK-47 rifle, bends his knees slightly, demonstrating a correct firing stance. The student retrieves his weapon, repeats the Soldier's actions properly and turns to the Soldier, smiles and says, "Shukran," Arabic for "thank you."

This event was part of the training of 3rd Federal Police Division by members of Task Force Marne's 3rd Federal Police Division Transition Team stationed at Forward Operating Base Marez in northern Iraq, Dec. 18.

After briefly quizzing the policemen on the four-step firing process they learned the previous day, the Soldiers showed the group of policemen how to properly execute the firing positions step-by-step, while also explaining the importance of having disciplined and uniformed firing positions.

Master Sergeant Todd Bacon, 3rd Federal Police Division Transition Team and noncommissioned officer in charge of the training, said that the training would definitely be helpful to the policemen while on duty.

"Today, we taught them correct reflexive firing positions," he said. "We taught them how to turn, pivot left, right, or to the rear and fire. I also made sure to tell them to always position their armor toward the enemy, and that while it may be more comfortable to fire from the side, that leaves more of their body that is not protected exposed."

Sergeant First Class Edwin C. Frates, 3rd Federal Police Division Transition Team, said that the policemen soaked up the training with ease.

"The guys listened to the interpreter as he translated Master Sgt. Bacon's words; they followed orders really well," said Sgt. 1st Class Frates. "Hopefully, they will take some of this training home with them, practice it, and apply it when they are out on patrol."

Sergeant First Class Frates also said it made him feel good that he and the other Soldiers could be involved in something so productive for both the U.S. Army and the IFP.

"With this training, these guys will be more effective at what they do," said Sgt. 1st Class Frates. "They will be able to protect their citizens and ensure safety in Iraq. This only helps get us all closer to the mission here in Iraq – to stabilize Iraq's security forces and its people."

After practicing the firing stances, the IFP ran through an obstacle course then moved down to the range to test out their newly learned training.



Pfc. Crystal M. O'Neal

**ABOVE and BELOW LEFT: Iraqi Federal Policeman practice firing during a training session led by 3rd Federal Police Division Transition Team Soldiers on firing techniques and positions on FOB Marez, Dec. 18.**



Pfc. Gregory Gieske, 2nd HBCT Public Affairs



Pfc. Crystal M. O'Neal

**Sergeant First Class Faustino Saizar, 3rd Federal Police Division Transition Team, shares information on correct firing stances with a member of the IFP during a training session the transition team held to train the IFPs on firing techniques and positions on FOB Marez, Dec. 18.**



# 3HBCT keeps the Iraqi borders safe

**Staff Sgt. Natalie Hedrick,**  
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE ECHO, Iraq** – The commands, “parade rest, attention,” and “double time,” could be heard clearly through the early morning chill Dec. 29 at FOB Echo – but not in a way most American Soldiers could understand.

Ninety-nine Iraqi border patrolmen stood in formation, motivated to start the day. Physical training was first, led by a student who quickly earned the respect of his peers and instructors, according to Staff Sgt. Jammie Tucker, senior non-commissioned officer of the Diwaniyah stability transition team. The STT is part of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

The men double-timing to an Arabic cadence were only days away from graduating from the 5th Department of Border Enforcement Academy. It is the largest advanced noncommissioned officer class the academy has seen.

The 5th DBE consists of border patrol, border police, customs, and two quick reaction force battalions. The units cover four provinces, including Diwaniyah, Najaf, Karbala, and Muthana. The class that was so close to graduation consisted solely of border patrolmen.

After physical training, the students ate breakfast, practiced drill and cere-

mony in preparation for graduation, and then moved into a classroom ready for instruction. Day 42 of the 45-day-long course was already in full swing; it was only nine o'clock.

According to Maj. Ryan Yedlinsky, an STT deputy team chief, the students had already been through a vigorous course agenda, including port of entry operations, personnel searches, check point operations, reaction to terrorists and suicide bombers, and drugs and weapons smuggling. These topics were taught in the classroom and with practical exercises.

“The students might sit in the classroom and learn about check point operations for example,” Maj. Yedlinsky explains. “Then they actually come outside, set up a mock check point and go through what they just learned.”

Major Yedlinsky commends the academy's curriculum but believes the course is more than just a refresher course to understanding border patrol operations.

“We want to help them understand what they are capable of as NCOs,” he said. “Initiative is the biggest thing we try to instill in the students. We hope they walk away with that.”

Major Yedlinsky explained, until recently, the Iraqi Security Force Noncommissioned Officer Corps was not recognized in terms of leadership.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Natalie Hedrick

***Students from the 5th Department of Border Enforcement Academy's advance noncommissioned officer course practice marching at their compound on Forward Operating Base Echo, Iraq, Dec. 29. The class is practicing for their upcoming graduation ceremony.***

Instead, NCOs took on roles as runners to the officers.

“In addition to explaining the role of the NCO to the students here, we also explain it to the officers that we work with,” Maj. Yedlinsky said. “We explain to the officers that they are very busy men and can rely on their NCOs. What we are starting to see now, especially in the staff sections, is the officers really using their NCOs.”

“Patriotism, honor, duty, and service,” said Carlos Carrillo, a retired U.S. border patrolman. “Appreciation of their service is what every warrior seeks. Their motivation is commendable.”

Major Yedlinsky explained, with the 3rd HBCT's current advise-and-assist mission in Iraq, American instructors, like Tucker and Carrillo, show the students how American NCOs operate, then let them build their own style of leadership.

“The Iraqis are capable people,” Maj. Yedlinsky said. “This works for them because they live the culture and they know the people better than we ever could.”

Lieutenant Hider, dean of the 5th DBE Academy, agreed and added a touch of pride to his already growing confidence in his students.

“The students take this course seriously,” he said through a translator. “They are the first barrier of defense to protect this country. They should be proud. They represent the Iraqi Security Forces and they protect the people of Iraq.”

The students graduated Jan. 4 at the academy compound on FOB Echo. Kadom, a student enrolled in the course, said he is proud and happy that he will be one step closer to becoming an NCO and said he is ready to become a role model for his subordinates.

***A student from the 5th Department of Border Enforcement Academy's advance noncommissioned officer course maneuvers through an obstacle course during the class's morning physical training session in their compound on Forward Operating Base Echo, Iraq, Dec. 29.***





# Handheld device helps Soldiers detect the enemy

Staff Sgt. Tanya Polk  
4th IBCT Public Affairs

Soldiers can now capture the enemy with the help of an electronic device about the size of a Polaroid camera. A mobile training team from the New System Integration Training Office at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., taught 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Soldiers how to operate the Handheld Interagency Identity Detection Equipment (or HIIDE) – a gadget with the power to positively identify high-value targets in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The HIIDE is a portable version of the Biometrics Automated Toolset - a four-piece kit consisting of a laptop, digital camera, fingerprint scanner and an iris reader that stores unique biometric information. Photos, fingerprints and irises are computed into the BAT where they can be matched with the biometrics of terrorists and other enemy persons.

“The HIIDE allows Soldiers to use the BAT system outside the wire, out on patrol,” said Nick Brantley, biometrics trainer and developer who taught the Basic Biometrics Operators Course to 3/7 Inf. Regt. troops here, Jan. 11. “It’s more effective than asking for an (identification card); biometrics can’t be doctored.”

Brantley explained that HIIDE can detect any individual who has been previously enrolled into a biometric database through the BAT system. He said that deployed Soldiers will enroll Iraqi and Afghani citizens into the database at checkpoints, Forward Operating Bases and during cordon and searches in the villages where security is heightened. The database is monitored by Department of Defense agencies, the Criminal Investigation Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, he said.

There are two classes of the database – red and green. Most individuals come up ‘green’ and harmless, but there are those individuals who have been coded ‘red’ - potential threats.

Todd Kimsey, who taught the basic biometrics class alongside Brantley, said the Army’s goal is to enroll the entire Iraqi population into the database. That’s more than 31 million sets of fingerprints and irises. So far, he said, more than 2 million Iraqis have been enrolled.

“You’ll enroll approximately 12,000 individuals per week,” Kimsey told the infantry Soldiers who are slated to deploy to Iraq this summer.

The 3/7 Inf. Regt. is part of the 3rd Infantry Division’s sole light-infantry brigade. The brigade rid its hefty equipment and converted into a lighter-fighting force last year. The portable biometrics device (HIIDE) goes hand-in-hand with the 4th IBCT’s light-fighting initiative, Brantley said, adding that the basic biometrics class will better prepare the light-fighters for their upcoming mission.

“The Soldiers may not catch every enemy, but the (HIIDE) will definitely help reduce the violence and terrorist activity.”



Staff Sgt. Tanya Polk

*Specialists Jamie James and Oscar Pena, infantrymen assigned to Company A, 3/7 Inf. Regt., practice using an iris scanner as part of the Basic Biometrics Operators Course taught at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center, Fort Stewart, Jan. 11. A mobile training team from Fort Huachuca, Ariz., taught ‘Cottonbaler Battalion’ Soldiers the basics of a computerized personnel identification system known as BAT used to detect the enemy in Iraq and Afghanistan.*

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